

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-22 (cancelled).

23 (currently amended). Oral pharmaceutical or dietary composition containing comprising, as active ingredients, at least one short-chain fatty acid or salt, ester and/or amide thereof, in combination with a complex sugar and/or dietary fibre in which the complex sugar and/or dietary fibre is selected from inulin, pectin, dextrin, maltodextrin or derivatives thereof and with one or more pharmacologically acceptable excipients, said composition comprising (a) a matrix consisting of lipophilic compounds with a melting point lower than 90°C and optionally amphiphilic compounds in which the active ingredient are at least partially incorporated, (b) an amphiphilic matrix; and (c) an outer hydrophilic matrix in which the lipophilic matrix and the amphiphilic matrix are dispersed.

24 (currently amended). Composition according to Claim claim 23 in which the short-chain fatty acid is a linear or branched C₁-C₅ monocarboxylic organic acid.

25 (currently amended). Composition according to Claim claim 23 in which the short-chain fatty acid is selected from: acetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, and isovaleric acid, preferably butyric acid.

26 (currently amended). Composition according to Claim claim 25 in which the short-chain fatty acid is butyric acid.

27 (previously presented). Composition according to claim 23 in which a quantity of from 5 to 50% by weight of the short-chain fatty acid is included.

28 (previously presented). Composition according to claim 27 in which a quantity of from 10 to 30% by weight of the short-chain fatty acid is included.

29 (previously presented). Composition according to claim 23 in which a quantity of from 5 to 50% by weight of the soluble dietary fibre is included.

30 (previously presented). Composition according to claim 29 in which a quantity of from 10 to 30% by weight of the soluble dietary fibre is included.

31 (previously presented). Oral pharmaceutical or dietary composition according to claim 23 in tablet, capsule, granule and/or micro-granule form.

32 (currently amended). Oral pharmaceutical or dietary composition according to claim 23, characterized in that wherein it is an intestinal controlled-release composition.

33 (previously presented). Oral pharmaceutical or dietary composition according to claim 23, containing a gastro-resistant coating.

34-44 (canceled).

45 (new). Composition according to claim 23 further comprising (d) other excipients.

46 (new). Composition according to claim 25 in which the short-chain fatty acid is butyric acid.